

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method of managing user connection sessions with a gateway in a computer network, said method comprising the steps of:
- 5 storing user data on said gateway in response to authentication by said user;
- storing user status information in a table in a RADIUS server during times that an authenticated user session is established with said gateway;
- 10 deleting said user status information from said table when said authenticated user session is terminated;
- said gateway routing said user traffic in response to said user data;
- 15 detecting a failure of said gateway wherein said stored user data is lost;
- said gateway sending a request to said RADIUS server to provide said user status information and user data corresponding to each user in said table;
- 20 storing said user data on said gateway; and
- said gateway routing said user traffic to continue said authenticated user session in response to said user data and said user status information without requiring re-authentication following said failure.
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2. The method of claim 1 wherein said user status information includes an IP address assigned to said user for said session.
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3. The method of claim 1 wherein said detecting step is comprised of a power-up initialization.
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4. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of requesting said RADIUS server to provide said user status information and said user data is included in a boot-up sequence of said gateway.